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APR 12 2000
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

April 12, 2000

via hand delivery

J. Richard Collier, Esq.
General Counsel
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

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TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

**Re: Joint Petition of TEC Companies and the Consumer Advocate Division
for Approval of Earnings Review Settlement, Docket No. 99-00995
BBS File No. 063995-100**

Dear Richard:

As you may know, on March 23, 2000, counsel for AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc., served discovery requests on the TEC Companies. These discovery requests are wide ranging and seek extensive information from my client. AT&T requested that these discovery requests be answered within 30 days, and that time period will expire on April 24, 2000.

As you also are aware, a pre-hearing conference has not yet been held in this matter and a procedural schedule has not been set. Moreover, there is pending before the Authority a motion by the Consumer Advocate Division for summary judgment as to the matters asserted by AT&T as intervenor.

I spoke to Val Sanford before the Directors' Conference yesterday and asked if his client, AT&T would be willing to postpone my client's obligation to respond to these discovery requests until a procedural schedule has been set requiring such responses. Val expressed a willingness to do so as long as the pre-hearing conference to establish such a schedule is not set too far into the future.

I am bringing this matter to your attention by letter at this time in order to avoid our having to file a motion for a protective order to prevent my client from having to engage in extensive discovery activity before a procedural schedule is set, the scope of discovery is outlined, and the status of the issues raised by AT&T in this matter has been determined. I look forward to hearing from you at your early convenience.

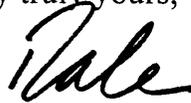
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J. Richard Collier, Esq.
April 12, 2000
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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Dale Grimes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

R. Dale Grimes

RDG/jm/2104658

cc: Val Sanford, Esq. (*via facsimile 256-6339*)
Vincent Williams, Esq. (*via facsimile 741-8742*)
Mr. Greg Eubanks (*via facsimile 601-352-8830*)
Mr. Tommy Ott (*via facsimile 256-381-2989*)